

February 3, 2022

TO: Montague Select Board and Trinity Health Care New England  
FROM: Montague Historical Commission  
RE: Farren Hospital

Dear Trinity Health Care New England

Dear Trinity Health Care New England,

A group of local citizens and residents of Montague have vigorously challenged the need to proceed with the demolition the Farren Hospital, citing its architectural and historic significance. We have recently learned that this building was designed by the distinguished architect Wilson Eyre, Jr. arguably the best-known architect in the United States in the decades before Frank Lloyd Wright. Additionally, the Farren was commissioned and constructed by the illustrious Montague engineer and contractor Bernard Farren, second only to Alvah Crocker in his impact and influence in Turners Falls and Montague City.

The Historical Commission is concerned that Trinity reversed its public promise to conduct a reuse investigation in partnership with the Town, evaluated the building privately without bonafide transparency, and released only partial details of its findings. Without far more information as to the Farren's actual condition and prospects for preservation, it is virtually impossible for the Montague Historic Commission to fulfill its role in advising the Town under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 8d.

Therefore we are request that Trinity make available its report regarding the current state of both the original building and the later addition, and consider a delay in requesting a demolition permit. We'd also like to mention that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has informed us that there are avenues for an independent evaluation at no cost to Trinity. An additional professional evaluation of the building is a possibility.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter so important to the Commission and townspeople of Montague.  
Sincerely,

David Brule  
Chair, Montague Historical Commission